

The background is a deep red color with several glowing, wavy lines in a lighter shade of red. These lines have a soft, ethereal quality, with some appearing as thin ribbons and others as more substantial, flowing paths. There are also some faint, geometric shapes and patterns, possibly related to a book cover or a religious symbol, but they are mostly obscured by the glowing lines and the overall red hue. The overall effect is one of divine light and holiness.

Sharing His Divine Nature

A Series on Holiness

Whose Responsible?

- The Individual
- The Family
- The Church

The Individual

So then, my dear friends, just as you have always obeyed, not only in my presence but even more in my absence, **continue working out your salvation with awe and reverence**, for the one bringing forth in you both the desire and the effort – for the sake of his good pleasure – is God.

- Philippians 2:12-13

The Family

Direct your children onto the right path, and when they are older, they will not leave it.

- Proverbs 22:6

Children, always obey your parents, for this pleases the Lord.

- Colossians 3:20

The Church

Care for the flock that God has entrusted to you. **Watch over it** willingly, not grudgingly -- not for what you will get out of it, but because you are eager to serve God. Don't lord it over the people assigned to your care, but **lead them by your own good example.**

- 1 Peter 5:2-3

YSL

“Legendary designer Yves Saint Laurent, who reworked the rules of fashion by putting women in elegant pantsuits that came to define how modern women dressed died Sunday evening....”

YSL, cont.

“...his most enduring legacy is so pervasive as to seem almost remarkable: pants. Saint Laurent’s elegant pantsuits **broke barriers between the sexes**, a sartorial revolution that fit a social one and changed the way generations of women dressed.”

“Saint Laurent’s signature was taking **menswear silhouettes** and slimming them down to fit a **feminine shape**.”

YSL, cont.

“From the first YSL tuxedo and his trim pantsuits to see-through blouses, safari jackets and glamorous gowns, Saint Laurent created instant classics that remain stylish decades later.”

“**He showed that women could wear ‘men’s clothes,’** which when tailored to the female form became an emblem of elegant femininity.”

YSL, cont.

“...he was a libertarian, an anarchist and he threw bombs at the legs of society. That’s how he transformed society and that’s how he transformed women.”

“Some of his revolutionary style met with resistance. There are famous stories of women wearing Saint Laurent pantsuits who were turned away from hotels and restaurants in London and New York.”

YSL, cont.

“One scandal centered on the designer himself, when he posed nude and floppy-haired for a photographer in 1971, wearing only his trademark thick black glasses, to promote his perfume.”

YSL, cont.

“Saint Laurent spoke of his battles with depression, drugs, and loneliness.... ‘I’ve known fear and terrible solitude,’ he said. ‘Tranquillizers and drugs, those phony friends. The prison of depression and hospitals. I’ve emerged from all this, dazzled but sober.’”

YSL, cont.

“[Pierre] Berge, the designer’s longtime business partner and former romantic partner, was quoted as saying that Saint Laurent was born with a nervous breakdown.”

Romans 1:18-20

But God shows his anger from heaven against all sinful, wicked people who suppress the truth by their wickedness. They know the truth about God because he has made it obvious to them. For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see his invisible qualities -- his eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse for not knowing God.

Romans 1:21-23

Yes, they knew God, but they wouldn't worship him as God or even give him thanks. And they began to think up foolish ideas of what God was like. As a result, their minds became dark and confused. Claiming to be wise, they instead became utter fools. And instead of worshiping the glorious, ever-living God, they worshiped idols made to look like mere people and birds and animals and reptiles.

Romans 1:24-25

So God abandoned them to do whatever shameful things their hearts desired. As a result, they did vile and degrading things with each other's bodies. They traded the truth about God for a lie. So they worshiped and served the things God created instead of the Creator himself, who is worthy of eternal praise! Amen.

Romans 1:26-27

That is why God abandoned them to their shameful desires. Even the women turned against the natural way to have sex and instead indulged in sex with each other. And the men, instead of having normal sexual relations with women, burned with lust for each other. Men did shameful things with other men, and as a result of this sin, they suffered within themselves the penalty they deserved.

Romans 1:28

Since they thought it foolish to acknowledge God, he abandoned them to their foolish thinking and let them do things that should never be done.

Romans 1:29-31

Their lives became full of every kind of wickedness, sin, greed, hate, envy, murder, quarreling, deception, malicious behavior, and gossip. They are backstabbers, haters of God, insolent, proud, and boastful. They invent new ways of sinning, and they disobey their parents. They refuse to understand, break their promises, are heartless, and have no mercy.

Romans 1:32

They know God's justice requires that those who do these things deserve to die, yet they do them anyway. Worse yet, they encourage others to do them, too.

Romans 2:1-2

You may think you can condemn such people, but you are just as bad, and you have no excuse! When you say they are wicked and should be punished, you are condemning yourself, for you who judge others do these very same things. And we know that God, in his justice, will punish anyone who does such things.

There Are...

- ...vile and degrading things [done] with each other's bodies
- ...natural way[s] to have sex
- ...normal sexual relations

Genesis 2:18-20

Then the LORD God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper who is just right for him.” So the LORD God formed from the ground all the wild animals and all the birds of the sky. He brought them to the man to see what he would call them, and the man chose a name for each one. He gave names to all the livestock, all the birds of the sky, and all the wild animals. But still there was no helper just right for him.

Genesis 2:21-23

So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep. While the man slept, the LORD God took out one of the man's ribs and closed up the opening. Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib, and he brought her to the man. "At last!" the man exclaimed. "This one is bone from my bone, and flesh from my flesh! She will be called 'woman,' because she was taken from 'man.'"

Genesis 2:24-25

This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one. Now the man and his wife were both naked, but they felt no shame.

Sex and Holiness

- Sex was created by God
- Sex existed before sin
- Gender is essential to fulfilling sex
- Holiness is essential to fulfilling sex
- Sexuality, done according to God's direction, is holy
- God has preserved sex within holiness

God's Logic

- The body is a treasure created by God in his image
- Through disobedience, sin entered the world and produced shame about the body
- Through shame sin attacked not only the body but sexuality
- God removed shame by clothing the body and preserving pure sexuality within the privacy of marriage
- How you dress affects your sexuality

The Choice

- Just as in the garden with Adam and Eve, we have a choice
- God's way or our way
- We don't fully understand why but the results are exactly as God promises

The Results

- Clothe yourself in a manner that displays the body—your treasure—and become a frustrated sexual being
- Clothe yourself in a manner that protects the body—your treasure—and you become a fulfilled sexual being

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